

Do You Like It?

Narrator: Sam (16) decides to have a serious chat with his sister Linda (14) about her behaviour on social media platforms. From what he can see, she seems ready to go beyond the accepted limits to obtain “likes”. Besides, the other day he discovered that she has faked her age to keep her account on Tinder.

(Sam enters Linda’s room without knocking. Linda is talking to someone with the mobile camera on. Chatting sounds and door opening)

Sam: Knock, knock.

Linda: (turning around and ending her conversation abruptly.... In an angry voice): Hey, whoever gave you permission to enter my room like that? Isn’t one allowed some privacy around here?

Sam: Forgot. Sorry. (not very empathic voice. Taking a seat on her couch)

Linda: (impatiently) Well, since you’re here anyway....what’s up?

*Sam: Thank you for asking, thought you never would. Actually, there **is** something I’d like to discuss with you. Must say I was a bit surprised the other day. Since when were you 18? (with a chuckle) Is there a birthday party I’ve missed?*

Linda: What do you mean?

Sam: Saw your profile update on Facebook. Turns out that you’re 18 now? Has this something to do with keeping your account on Tinder? Looking for a new boyfriend, are you?

Linda: It’s stupid that Tinder decided to raise the age limit from 13 to 18. You know their advertisement: (in a mocking voice) “We’ve solved the biggest problem in humanity: that you’re put on this planet to meet people”. Why aren’t people under 18 allowed to meet other people? It’s ridiculous and unfair.

Sam: Don’t you think they banned young people under 18 for a reason? Has the thought struck you that there may be people out there that don’t have the best of intentions? Have you ever heard of perverts? Besides, faking your age is illegal.

Linda: I hate it when you patronize me. I know it’s illegal and I know there are paedophiles out there, but I just mingle with friends of my own age – what do you take me for?

Sam: Well, what if your “friend” tells you he’s 14, and he is....say....50? How would you like that? And if you should agree to meet him....then...guess what happens?

Linda: You mean grooming? I KNOW the difference. There’s no way a 50-year-old can trick me into thinking he is my age. It would be easy to see through him. Just think of the way our parents speak, and not to mention, what they speak about! There is no chance that I’ll be tricked by an old man. Old people have no idea what WE are preoccupied with.

Sam: (insisting and appealing) Ah, Linda, I'm just concerned. I AM your brother, and I appreciate that I'm your friend in the virtual world as well, and it's not just about you, but I think your friends also seem to have no other goal in life than getting "likes". I wonder – where do you draw the line? I saw a nude picture of one your friends. Everyone talks about it.

Linda: I know who you're talking about. She's the laughing stock of everyone, and besides, we don't hang out with her. I would never have done anything that stupid, that's for sure.

Sam: Have you ever thought about why this girl chose to take the pic? Maybe it was a boy that she had crush on asking her to do it? You're saying you don't hang out with her – maybe she's lonely, and thinks this is a way of getting friends and "likes"?

Linda: Even if I do some selfies and photo-shopping, it doesn't mean that I lack self-esteem, Sam. *(In a teasing voice)* Anyway, who are you, to pick on me? Don't you think I saw the way you were flexing your muscles when Susan came to visit? Even if I show off a little on a snap or two, we're two of a kind. However, I'll make a promise here and now – I'll be careful. Thanks for warning me *(chuckling)* – and now....off you go!

Explanations:

Tinder is an online dating forum that from June 2016 raised the age limit from 13 to 18. Tinder uses age data from Facebook.

Grooming (in this context) is when a grown-up person befriends a child/minor in order to abuse it sexually. On the internet abusers pose as children to establish a sexual relationship.